## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 H-02 PRS-01 /049 W

----- 046677

O P 031807Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6204

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 4802

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJ: CIVAIR: BRANIFF FLIGHT SUSPENSION

1. AS DEPARTMENT WAS INFORMED BY TELEPHONE JULY 2, BRANIFF WAS ORALLY NOTIFIED JULY 2 THAT PERMISSION FOR ITS FLIGHTS WAS SUSPENDED AS OF MIDNIGHT JULY 3. BRANIFF SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED AT 5:30 P.M. JULY 2 A LETTER SIGNED BY DGCA SUAREZ CONFIRMING THIS DECISION. NO WORD OR INDICATION OF THIS ACTION HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO LITTON BY SUAREZ DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS YESTERDAY.

2. WHEN ATTEMPTS TO SEE BOTH DGCA AND FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, I REQUESTED AN IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES MORNING JULY 3. IT WAS INITIALLY SET FOR 5:30 P.M. BUT AFTER RENEWED INSISTENCE ON THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER HE RECEIVED ME AT NOON. I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND GAVE HIM A COPY OF BOTH THE DGCA'S LETTER AND BRANIFF'S REPLY THERETO. I SAID THAT I WAS AT A TOTAL LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THIS ACTION, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT TOOK PLACE AT THE PRECISE TIME WHEN LITTON WAS HERE TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATIONS BEGUN IN MID-JUNE. IT MEANT THAT BRANIFF AS OF 1400 TODAY WOULD HAVE TO BEGIN NOTIFYING PASSENGERS OF ITS FIRST FLIGHT'S CANCELLATION. I ASKED THE MINISTER TO EXPLAIN WHAT THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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DGAC ACTION MEANT.

- 3. LUCIO PAREDES PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF THE WHOLE AFFAIR. HE SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE NATURE OF MY BUSINESS WITH HIM HE HAD CONSULTED HIS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE AVIATION COUNCIL AND BEEN TOLD THAT THE COUNCIL HAD MET AND AUTHORIZED SUAREZ' FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH LITTON. HE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER URGENTLY.
- 4. MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE AIRPORT, BRANIFF WAS ORALLY NOTIFIED LATE THIS MORNING THAT AN EIGHT-DAY EXTENSION OF THE DGAC ORDER HAS BEEN GRANTED AND THAT WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF THIS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. LITTON IS CURRENTLY (12:30 P.M. LOCAL) MEETING WITH SUAREZ.
- 5. FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES JUST CALLED ME (12:45 P.M. LOCAL) TO SAY THAT THE DGCA'S ORDER WHICH I HAD INFORMED HIM ABOUT "WILL NOT APPLY" AND THAT LITTON WOULD CONTINUE TALKING WITH DGCA SUAREZ. BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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